



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE
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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

KINGSTON MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPONS OFFENSE

Re: United States v. Michael Marini, Jr.

Concord, New Hampshire -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono and U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms Resident Agent in Charge Kraig Hankins announce that Michael Marini, Jr., DOB 9/19/75, of Kingston, New Hampshire was convicted today of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

MARINI, who was previously convicted of cocaine distribution charges in Massachusetts, entered a guilty plea before U.S. District Judge Paul J. Barbadoro, admitting that he purchased and possessed a Glock 9mm semi-automatic pistol and a Bushmaster rifle in August, 1999. Federal law prohibits individuals convicted of felonies from purchasing or possessing firearms.

MARINI was detained without bail by Judge Barbadoro pending his sentencing hearing to be held in U.S. District Court in Concord on August 19, 2003. He faces a maximum term of imprisonment of 10 years.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated: "This case exemplifies this Office's commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of convicted felons, including drug traffickers like the one in this case, is one of our main objectives. This office will continue to vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we expand the implementation of Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire."

The prosecution against MARINI, part of the Department of Justice's "Project Safe Neighborhoods" (PSN) initiative, resulted from an investigation conducted by the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.